

Remarks

Entry of this amendment and allowance of all remaining claims are respectfully requested. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 7, 10, 12 & 13 will remain pending.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 11-12 & 24-25 if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to this indication, the allowable subject matter of claim 11 is written into independent claim 7, and dependent claim 12 is rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, independent claims 7 & 12 are believed allowable, as well as claims 10 & 13 which depend from claim 7.

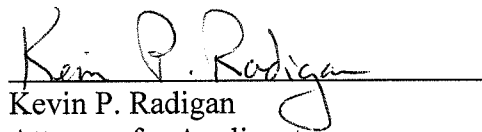
All rejections stated in the initial Office Action are believed moot in view of the amendments presented herewith.

Applicants have herein amended the claims to present only the subject matter of allowable claim 11 (written into independent claim 7) and allowable claim 12. These amendments are not intended as an acknowledgement that previously pending claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11 & 14-28 were unpatentable over the art cited in the Office Action. Rather, the present amendments and cancellations are presented only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of certain allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any issue remain unresolved, however, Applicants' undersigned representative requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss the matter in the hope of advancing prosecution of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin P. Radigan", is written over a horizontal line.

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